

Commonwealth of Learning

In association with the
Commonwealth Youth Programme (S.I.)

Strengthening Youth and Women Networks And Building Communities for *Learning4Peace*

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is the leading international organisation promoting improved access to open and distance learning, open educational resources and capacity building for Commonwealth countries. Under their Governance theme, COL has a programme entitled “Learning4Peace” which aims to build communities of women and youth to collaborate and develop open educational resources related to the theme.

In Solomon Islands, Isabel Province has been identified for a Learning4Peace pilot project that will initially focus on Youth (but involve women, too), because of the strong:

- Existing youth and women networks
- Existing Youth Policy
- Existing rural ICT networks including PFnet, DLC with broadband at Guguha, and FM radio stations

The idea of the pilot, is to build a networked community of Isabel Youth and help them use the existing ICT networks and facilities, linked to their own human networks, to collaborate to develop educational resources concerning the following topics:

- Leadership
- Human Rights
- Conflict Resolution
 - Sub-topic: Domestic Violence

As the focus is on youth, and the means of dissemination includes the 8 community FM stations, it is hoped that audio materials will be a feature. This will be exciting to the young participants and can involve much creativity, for instance songs and debates related to the topic areas.

National and Provincial (and even International) organisations will be invited to join in and provide mentoring and guidance on the online discussions. For instance SIDT, ICP, SCF, MU, DOY and CSP and others. There will be strong linkage to the Provincial Youth Policy, and participation of the Youth Council, area Youth Forums and Youth Parliament. The MWYCA and Isabel Ministry of Community Affairs are expected to be among the lead partners in the project governance.

Project resources will include the use of the PFnet and FM stations, and the Guguha DLC will feature highly as a production centre and workshop venue with the capability for online meetings , with a highly trained full time Supervisor. It is also hoped to recruit an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD) who could be based in Buala or Guguha.

The project is in two phases.

1. A scoping mission, to identify the structures, participants and action plan
2. Building the networks, capacity building and development of open education resources.

A 3-4 day planning workshop is proposed, between March 23rd and 27th. This will include sessions at Guguha DLC to demonstrate and raise awareness of networking technologies. COL will provide transport, accommodation, lunches and per diems for participants from outside Buala.

Outcomes are expected to include:

- Strengthened women and youth networking
- Improved awareness and knowledge in the project theme Learning4Peace
- Youth Policy objectives advanced
- More utilised and sustainable ICT networks
- Demonstration of ICT networking contributing to an improved Provincial Communications Policy

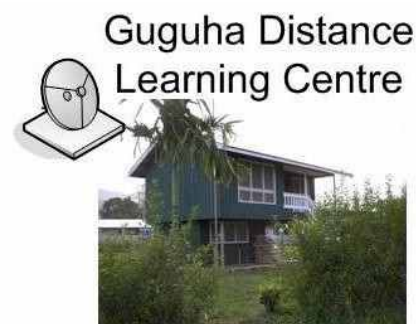
More information:

- http://www.wikieducator.org/Learning4Peace/Solomon_Islands

Contact:

- David Leeming, Coordinator and consultant for COL, and Technical Advisor, PFnet
leeming@pipolfastaem.gov.sb Tel: 76396
- Afu Billy, Regional Director, CYP regionaldirector@cypsp.org.sb
- Paul Peteru, Programme Manager, CYP S.I. paul.peteru@cypsp.org.sb
- Dr Tanyss Munro, Education Expert (Governance), COL, tmunro@col.org

Community ICT facilities in Isabel



7 combined PFnet (HF) email stations
and community FM radio stations:
"Community Communications Centres"

